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64th YEAR NUMBER 19,920. RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1914. —TWELVE PAGES— TO-DAY'S WEATHER RAIN PRICE 2 CENTS.

VEIL OF SECRECY DRAWN OVER OPERATIONS

CITY CONTROLS ALL STREETS IN ANNEXED AREA

Claims of Land Companies Held Null and Void by City Attorney.

RESERVATIONS MADE IN DEEDS ARE VALUELESS

May Make Public Improvements in All Open Thoroughfares, Says Pollard.

SUGGESTS PHYSICAL SURVEY

Would Then Buy Existing Utilities, or Parallel Them, as Is Most Economical.

The homely truth that one can't eat one's cake and have it, too, in the opinion of City Attorney Pollard, is applicable to the case of the several suburban land companies, which claim perpetual and exclusive ownership of the streets in these developments, notwithstanding the fact that under the recent annexation they are now part of the city.

In a comprehensive opinion bearing on the claim of the Southside Water and Sewerage Corporation to exclusive rights in the streets of Woodland Heights, transmitted to the Administrative Board yesterday, Mr. Pollard holds that the company's claim is invalid, and that the city has the same control over the use of these streets for municipal purposes as it has over all other streets in the city.

RESERVATIONS MADE IN DEEDS ARE VOID

"The reservations in the deeds executed by the Southside company," said Mr. Pollard, discussing his written opinion, "in so far as they tend to bridge the gap between the usual municipal control in the streets, are void. In dedicating for a valuable consideration to buyers of lots in Woodland Heights certain parcels of property fronting on streets designed for public use, the company parted with its property rights in these streets. It could not grant street rights to buyers of lots and at the same time reserve the exclusive right in these streets to itself. That would be an obvious contradiction."

The City Attorney's opinion, with regard to the Southside company's claim is regarded as of the first importance. If it is sustained, it will affect directly a number of other claims of a similar nature which have been presented to the Administrative Board since annexation. Mr. Pollard said yesterday that the opinion was applicable, with minor qualifications, to every claim to exclusive street rights that has been presented.

MANY SUBURBS AFFECTED BY CITY ATTORNEY'S OPINION

Among the companies affected are the Highland Park Development Corporation, which claims perpetual rights in the streets of Highland Park. Additionally, the Brookland House Drainage Company, which claims exclusive sewer rights in the streets of Ginter Park, and the Norwood Sewer and Water Corporation, which holds a sewer franchise for Barton Heights, North Richmond, Brookland Park, Norwood, Rowland Park and Ginter Park Terrace.

In asserting the city's absolute right to the control of the streets, Mr. Pollard conceded to the companies concerned their unquestioned right to payment for such of their water and sewer installations as the city may wish to take over. He also holds, nevertheless, may, if it chooses, decline to purchase or take over any of the installations, and install independent water and sewerage facilities in the streets claimed by the companies, pre-empted by the companies, whether such streets are now provided with such facilities or not.

After disposing of the legal status of the various claims, Mr. Pollard addresses himself to the suggestion of the Southside company that the valuation of the company's holdings in Woodland Heights, be submitted to the Board of Public Works, the Law and Equity Court or some other satisfactory arbitrator.

SUGGESTS PHYSICAL VALUATION

INSTEAD OF ARBITRATION

"My experience with the result of arbitration," the City Attorney explains, "does not justify my recommending the course proposed; besides, only the Council of the city of Richmond would be authorized to agree to such submission."

"It is, therefore, I think, fairly within your jurisdiction to direct a physical survey of the holdings of the Southside Water and Sewerage Corporation in the streets of the city of Richmond, with a view of ascertaining the present value of the same to the city of Richmond, and with the result of such physical survey in hand to treat with the company concerning the acquisition of its property, and should a tentative valuation be agreed upon, that you recommend to the Council the acquisition of the property. A condition precedent to such negotiations, however, should be the acceptance by the said company of the legal status of their property as outlined above."

CANNOT RESERVE STREETS AND SELL LOTS ON THEM

The claim of the Southside company to exclusive rights in the streets of Woodland Heights is based on the following provision, which was made part of every deed conveying property to lot purchasers:

"The party of the first part does not dedicate to the public the streets, alleys or bridges shown on the said plat, but reserves its ownership in and control of the same, with the right at all times to close or alter any of the said streets, alleys or bridges, except as hereinafter provided."

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

SELECTS DESIGN FOR NEW BUILDING ON OLD FORD LOT

Joint Committee Gives First Prize to Carneal & Johnston.

BOSOM'S AWARD IS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Found Entirely Feasible to Unite Courts, Library and Auditorium.

EACH HAS SEPARATE ENTRANCE

Consulting Architect Says Building Can Be Erected, Complete, for \$850,000.

Carneal & Johnston were last night declared by the special joint committee on the new municipal building, winners of the \$1,000 first prize in the competition for designs for the proposed structure. The \$500 second prize was won by Herbert L. Cain, and the \$250 third prize was awarded to W. Dunham Lee.

The awards were made unanimously on the basis of a report submitted by Advisory Architect Alfred C. Bosom, of New York, recommending designs Nos. 7, 4 and 3, as first, second and third best respectively, of the twelve designs that were submitted. When the sealed envelopes bearing the same numbers were opened, after the awards had been made, it was found that the three architects named were the winners.

COMMITTEE AGREES WITH BOSOM IN SELECTION OF DESIGN

The committee agreed with Mr. Bosom that the Carneal & Johnston design was so far superior for the city's purposes to the other eleven, and solved the library, courtroom and auditorium problems with such signal success that it easily merited the first prize. Although the two other prize winners embodied excellent features and were carefully drawn, they were given lower rank for reasons explained in detail by Mr. Bosom, which were concurred in by the committee.

CAN BE ERECTED FOR NOT OVER \$850,000

It is estimated by Mr. Bosom that the building can be constructed either of Indiana limestone or of granite for \$550,000. Allowing for all contingencies and extras, it was his belief that the cost would not exceed \$1,000,000.

The general mass of the building will approximately stand level with the roof line of the present City Hall. From this mass will rise the large central elevation—a wide as the First National Bank Building and twice as deep—to a height of more than 300 feet from the street level. The central elevated portion is to be devoted exclusively to the courtroom—each court to have an entire floor to itself. From street line to the top of the symbolic figure of Justice, which will surmount the tower, the building will be the tallest in the city—exceeding in height even the skyscraper at Ninth and Main Streets.

Under the resolution creating the special joint committee, it was empowered to employ a consulting architect and hold a design competition. The resolution carried an appropriation of \$1,000 for the advisory architect's services, but provided the committee with no funds with which to pay the \$1,750 in prizes.

CITY NOT YET OBLIGATED TO ERECT BUILDING

The committee, by a unanimous vote, adopted a resolution recommending to the Council that it appropriate \$1,750 with which to pay the three prizes to the winning architects. It also recommended to the Council that it adopt the Carneal & Johnston design for the building, and that it instruct the Chairman of the Board of Public Works to sign the voucher for \$1,000 due Mr. Bosom for his services.

Under the terms governing the competition, which all the architects accepted, the committee is under no obligation to recommend the construction of a building from either the winning or any other design. It is the city obligated to build. The competition and the strict obligations flowing from it close with the payment of the prize money.

"The plan of the committee, however, as soon as the preliminaries can be adjusted, is to recommend to the Council measures directing the construction of the new building from the winning design," Mr. Bosom said. "In the event that the city decides to build, the \$1,000 prize awarded to Carneal & Johnston, is to be deducted from the amount that will be paid to this firm as its professional fee on the building."

DESIRES TO RETAIN BOSOM AS CONSULTING EXPERT

The committee expressed unofficially its desire to retain Mr. Bosom as its advisory architect until the building is completed, or until it is definitely decided to abandon the project. Alderman Adams, who made this suggestion, thought that the city needed an expert to advise it on points that may arise from time to time in the course of the enterprise, and in conferring with the winning architects upon proposed improvements not provided for in the original design. The idea was given strong approval by the committee.

As soon as the resolution carrying appropriation for the prize-winners runs the gauntlet of the Finance Committee and the Council, the committee will hold another meeting, and take up the question of the building.

(Continued on Ninth Page.)

SCHERER HOLDS HIS OWN; HE HAS FIGHTING CHANCE

While Condition Is Serious, There Is Considerable Optimism Among Those at Bedside.

PHYSICIANS ARE ENCOURAGED

Wife and Children of Wounded Man With Him Now—There May Be Developments To-Day That Will Throw Light on Shooting Affair.

L. L. Scherer, of Richmond, general claim agent of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, who was shot and seriously wounded on Thursday morning between 4 and 5 o'clock, while accompanying Detectives Richardson, Rice and Hendrick on a trip over the main line between Clifton Forge and Covington, suffered a sinking spell early yesterday morning, but quickly rallied, and the attending physicians report that their patient is resting easy and doing as well as could be expected.

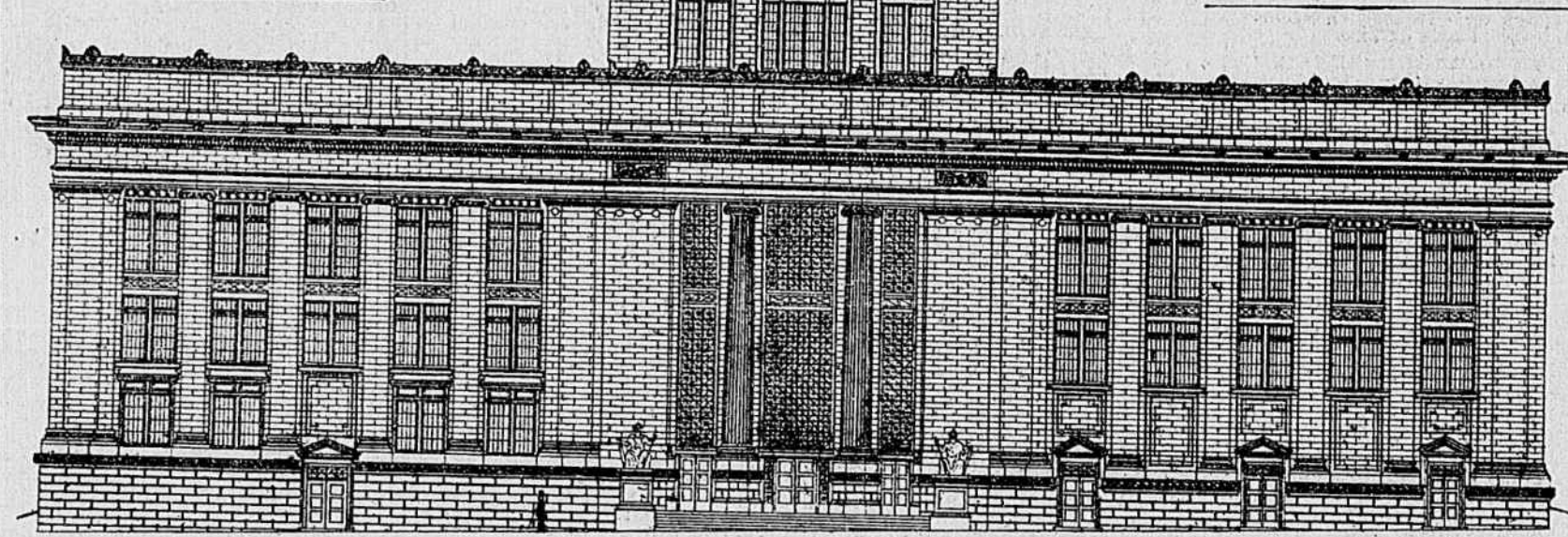
His brother, Rev. J. J. Scherer, Jr., said over the long distance telephone at 2:30 o'clock this morning that his brother was holding his own, and showed no unfavorable symptoms. It is realized, however, that his condition is still critical.

Mrs. Scherer, wife of the wounded man, and three children; Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Scherer, and J. W. King, who holds a position under Mr. Scherer, are at Clifton Forge. Their stay will be determined largely by the condition of the patient.

It is said by those in a position to know that Mr. Scherer has a fighting chance for life, and while all are aware that his condition is serious, there is considerable optimism among those at his bedside. Mr. Scherer is receiving every attention at the hands of the doctors and nurses in the hospital, and nothing is being overlooked to insure his recovery and return to health. Buildings are issued two or three times daily, and these are forwarded by fire to the leading officials of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. In this way the associates of Mr. Scherer are kept posted without the necessity of making inquiries.

Detective Richardson and the other secret service men working with him have made a few arrests, but nothing is being given out for the city's fear that any publicity may upset their plans. There is considerable speculation as to whether Mr. Scherer was shot from a moving train, as at first thought. The case is puzzling to those interested in it, and those who are anxious to see the guilty man brought to justice. By tomorrow there may be some developments that will throw light on the unfortunate affair.

Late yesterday afternoon Drs. Oppenheimer and Wyser issued a bulletin saying: "Pulse of Mr. Scherer is good and he seems a little better. Along with this bulletin the physician stated that they were much encouraged with the outlook for their patient."



Proposed new Municipal Building, to stand on Ford Hotel lot, adjoining City Hall, and to house public library, auditorium and all city courts. Plan of Carneal & Johnston, selected by special Council committee and consulting architect, is estimated to cost \$850,000.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD UNDER WAY IN BELGIUM

Chairman of American Commission for Relief Returns From Inspection Trip.

FAMINE, STILL THREATENS

On Account of Attitude of Belligerents People Must Continue to Appeal to United States—Brussels Type of Organization.

LONDON, December 4. (8:45 P. M.)—Herbert Clark Hoover, chairman of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium, returned to London to-day after a week's trip of inspection in Belgium. He reported that distribution of food is well under way, but declared famine still threatens the population, and that on account of the attitude of the belligerents, the Belgians must still appeal to the people of the United States for relief.

"I do not know that history presents any parallel of a population of 7,000,000 people surrounded by a ring of steel and utterly unable by any conceivable effort of their own to save themselves."

"From the nature of things, it is impossible for the commission even to possess an opinion in the rights and wrongs which have created this situation."

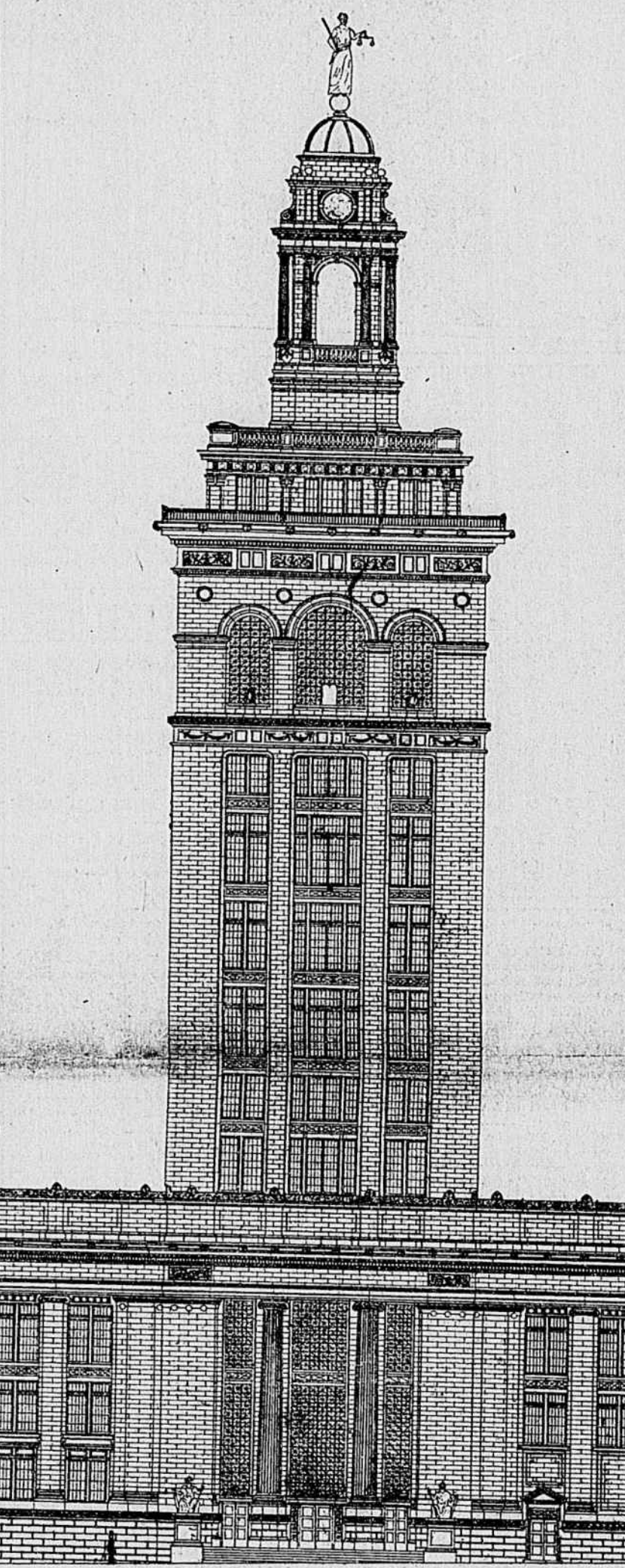
"We are meeting with no obstruction from the military authorities in Belgium. The most stringent orders have been given that we shall have no interference, and our members meet with assistance in all quarters."

"So far our efforts necessarily have been devoted to provisioning the larger centers. It requires organization and patience to penetrate the outlying towns and villages."

"The clerk has stopped in Belgium. An industrial country, dependent on the overseas before, is walled up, with 70 per cent of the people idle. There are

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

Design Winning First Prize



Proposed new Municipal Building, to stand on Ford Hotel lot, adjoining City Hall, and to house public library, auditorium and all city courts. Plan of Carneal & Johnston, selected by special Council committee and consulting architect, is estimated to cost \$850,000.

JEWISH WOMEN ADJOURN

Officers Elected at Final Session of Triennial Convention.

NEW ORLEANS, December 4.—Mrs. Ernestine Dreyfus, of Kansas City, late to-day was elected executive secretary of the National Council of Jewish Women at the triennial convention of the organization. Mrs. Dreyfus succeeds Miss Sadie American, of New York, who yesterday severed her connection with the council.

Among other officers elected were: President, Mrs. Nathaniel E. Harris, Bradford, Pa.; recording secretary, Mrs. Harry Glickman, of Milwaukee; treasurer, Mrs. Leo Herz, New Haven, Conn.

Among the directors elected is Mrs. D. E. Levy, of Norfolk, Va.

EXPERT PILOTS EMPLOYED

Proportion of Deaths of Airmen Lower in War Time Than in Peace.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) PARIS, December 4.—The Echo de Paris, quoting a well-known French aviator, says the proportion of deaths from aeroplane accidents is lower in time of war than in peace.

He said that only the most experienced pilots are employed at the front, and civilian aviators are forbidden to fly. The French losses are not given.

The German Fifth Army Corps is said to have lost so far seven Zeppelins and two aeroplanes, leaving the corps an air fleet of twenty-six dirigibles and 287 aeroplanes. Eighty-six German airmen have met death.

OLD JACKSON HOME BURNS

Fire Destroys Frame House Where Stonewall Lived When a Boy.

WESTON, W. VA., December 4.—The boyhood home of General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, a frame house north of here, was destroyed by fire last night. Leaves left burning by children are believed to have ignited the building. The old Jackson mill near-by was not harmed.

ATTRACTIVE AND ENJOYABLE TRIP. To Baltimore via York River Line, 5:10 P. M., except Sundays. \$2.50 one way, \$1.50 round trip.

CHECK UP ON INCOME TAX

Accurate Lists of Americans Gathered as Result of War.

WASHINGTON, December 4.—One effect of the European war is the opportunity afforded Treasury Department officials to gather accurate lists of Americans living in Europe who are subject to the income tax. With the beginning of hostilities, Americans abroad began to register at American consulates, and thousands of names appear in these records of which the income tax division of the Treasury Department had no knowledge.

The department has asked the State Department for a complete record of such Americans, and will use the lists in checking up returns made by Americans living in foreign countries. It was said to-day it would have taken many years to collect the information through ordinary channels.

MOB LYNCHES NEGRO

Caught Hiding Under House During Owner's Absence.

FLORENCE, S. C., December 4.—A mob took William Green, a negro, from officers near Coward, S. C., to-day, hanged him to a tree and then riddled his body with bullets, according to reports received here. Green was arrested after he had been detected in the act of hiding under a house during the owner's absence.

The negro's presence under the house was detected by the women occupants, who were unprotected, and who summoned the officers.

OPENING DATE POSTPONED

National Exposition of Panama Will Not Open Until March 13.

WASHINGTON, December 4.—The National Exposition of Panama, which was to have been opened on January 1, has been postponed until March 13, inability to have everything in readiness by the first of the year was said to have caused the delay. The announcement was made to the State Department to-day by the American consul-general at Panama city.

MANY WANT TO BORROW FROM COTTON LOAN FUND

Applications Expected Possibly to Total Sum of \$20,000,000 by January 1.

STATE CHAIRMEN TO MEET

Conference Will Be Held in Washington on December 14—Letters Urging Immediate Organization Sent Out by General Committee.

WASHINGTON, December 4.—The cotton loan committee to-night announced that the conference here with chairmen of State committees will be held December 14, instead of December 15, as previously proposed.

W. P. O. Harding, chairman of the committee, announced to-night that telegrams from chairmen of State committees indicate general interest in the loan fund, and large number of applications for loans.

Letters have been sent to State chairmen asking them to call meetings of State committees immediately for organization and appointment of local committees. Copies of the plan and application blanks are being mailed to all committeemen, so that applications for Class B certificates and loans may be received without waiting for the meeting of the cotton loan committee and State chairmen in Washington on December 14.

It was believed in some quarters here to-night that applications for loans would total possibly \$20,000,000 by January 1. It became known to-night that many applications have been made which hitherto were unreported to Washington. It was said Oklahoma alone has asked for about \$1,000,000, and there are indications that Texas may want several million.

MOVEMENT OF COTTON TO GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

WASHINGTON, December 4.—State and Commerce Department officials expect cotton shipments from America to Germany and Austria to total 75,000 to 150,000 bales a month, as soon as the marine insurance rate can be adjusted more satisfactorily to shippers.

The committees appointed by the Secretaries of State, Treasury and Commerce to consider the foreign cotton market situation to-day issued the following statement:

"It is evident there is a tremendous demand for cotton in Germany and Austria, and prices are high, ranging from 14 to 15 cents a pound. The principal difficulty seems to be the high rate of marine insurance. Otherwise, the movement of cotton from the United States to Europe would be facilitated."

CONFIDENT IN SUCCESS OF CARRANZA FACTION

Obregon Reports There Are Sufficient Honest Men to Overpower Villa Movement.

ARMY IS GROWING EVERY DAY

Present Struggle Regarded as Necessary Evil, Which Will Afford Opportunity to Set in Relief Those Fighting for Selfish Ambition.

WASHINGTON, December 4.—Rafael Zubarran, Carranza agent here, to-night made public a telegram from General Alvaro Obregon, dated yesterday at Vera Cruz, declaring his confidence in the success of the Carranza faction.

The message said: "I am confident that we have honest men in sufficient numbers to overpower the reactionary movement headed by Villa. We look upon the present struggle as a necessary evil, which will afford a splendid opportunity to set definitely in relief those who, like ourselves, are fighting for principle, and whose only inspiration is selfish ambition."

"The northern army corps under my command is well equipped and disciplined, and its ranks are swelling every day. Regarding the union of Villa, Zapata and Angeles, you may remain at ease. The bad faith of these men will never permit their union."

U. S. CAVALRYMAN HIT BY MEXICAN BULLET

WASHINGTON, December 4.—Another cavalryman, John W. Miller, has been hit by a Mexican bullet on the American side of the international line at Naco, L. Brant, a Mexican citizen, has been killed on the American side at the same place. Carranza has practically destroyed the Vera-Cruz-Mexico City Railway, and George Carruthers, the special agent of Secretary Bryan is at Mexico City endeavoring to create "a lasting peace" between General Zapata and General Villa.

RUSSIAN FORCES DRAW NET CLOSER AROUND CRACOW

But Military Men Do Not Look for Early Fall of Fortress.

MAY TRY TO BOTTLE UP AUSTRIAN ARMY INSIDE

German Advance on Warsaw Seemingly Fails in Its Object.

RELIABLE NEWS IS LACKING

Fighting Develops Into Such a Jumble Almost Impossible to Follow It.

Nothing to Show Fortunes of War

At no time since the war began has the veil of secrecy been so closely drawn over operations of the armies in all the theatres of the conflict.

Although it is known that battles of a vicious character still are being fought in the eastern zone, and that there have been isolated combats here and there along the entrenched lines in Belgium and France, nothing is at hand to show how the fortunes of war are being decided.

"At no place along the entire front has there been any notable incident," says the Paris official communication, referring to the situation in the west. Of the trend of events in the east, Vienna declares the fighting in North Poland continues, but that in all other zones quiet prevails.

Unofficial advice says the Russians have been victorious in Poland, and that the Germans have lost many men. One report has it that in the fighting between the Viennese and the Warthe the Germans lost two-thirds of their army.

France is soon to call up for examination 300,000 of her youths, who are liable to service in 1916. Their military training probably will be begun in March, and they will be ready for service in July.

In the Italian Parliament the statement of a Deputy, in a speech that he had soon to see the Italian tricolor wave from the center of the Cathedral of St. Justus, in Trieste, brought forth thunders of applause.

General Christian de Wet, the South African rebel leader, has been placed under guard in the fortress at Johannesburg.

The Swiss Federal Council, in an official communication, says there has been renewed activity by the French and German forces in Upper Alsace.

The Austrian General von Stutterheim is reported killed in battle.

LONDON, December 4 (10:30 P. M.)—Reliable news of the progress of the battle in Poland, which continues to monopolize interest, still is lacking.

An unofficial dispatch from Petrograd says the battle of Lodz has ended in success for the Russians, but this statement contradicts the Berlin official report, which says the German offensive in Poland is taking its normal course.

The fact is that fighting in this region has developed into such a jumble that it is almost impossible to follow it. The most important factor on the "allies" point is that the German advance on Warsaw seemingly has not succeeded in its object, nor has it diverted the Russians from their forward movement. The most important factor on the "allies" point is that the German advance on the plains of Hungary and on to the plains of Hungary, around which they are drawing a closer ring of men and artillery.

EARLY FALL OF CRACOW IS NOT LOOKED FOR

Taking into consideration the case of Przemyśl, which has held out so long against the Russian attacks, military men do not look for the early fall of Cracow, and are inclined to believe that the battle in the east will endeavor to keep the large Austrian force inside the fortress, and enter Silesia from the southeast.

Much depends, however, on the battle being fought with such intensity further north between the Rivers Vistula and Warthe, and in which all agree the losses on both sides have been heavy. There is an inclination to believe that had there been probability of an early success for the Germans in this field, Emperor William, who has returned to Berlin, would have remained to witness the victory.

The battle in the west appears to be at a standstill. It is evident that attacks which have been made have not met with much success. Under the title "Four Months of War," the French Bulletin of the Armies is publishing a report of the entire operations of the war.

ADVANCE IN ALSACE DID NOT DRAW GERMANS

The explanation is made in the report that the French were unable to take the offensive until the British army was ready, and that the advance into Alsace, which has been criticized as bad strategy, was designed to draw the Germans from the Belgian front. This plan did not succeed, it says, and the allies were driven back to the Saine.

The arrival of Australian and New Zealand contingents in Egypt on forty transports is quoted as another triumph for the British navy. The German cruiser Emden was not far from this fleet of transports when she was overtaken and destroyed by the Australian